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STREET-HOUSEMAIDS

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 524.*** [NON-PARTY.

VOL. VII., No. 338.] FRIDAY, OCTOBER, 1, 1915. [PRICE 1D.
Registered as a Newspaper.

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Notes and News.

The Naval and Military Pensions Bill.

Great changes have been made in this measure by Lord Devonport and the Liberal and Unionist peers who supported him in the House of Lords. Originally the Government scheme provided that the pensions and allowances should be administered by a Statutory Committee of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation. This Committee would have consisted of twenty-five members. Twelve were to be nominated by the King, some were to be women, and not less than two were to represent labour. One each was to be appointed by the Treasury, the Admiralty, the Army Council, the National Health Insurance Joint Committee, and representatives of the Local Government Boards. In its altered form the Bill proposes that eighteen members be nominated by the King, one each by the Treasury, the Admiralty, and the Army Council; two by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and two by the General Council of the Patriotic Fund.

The Prospect for the Commons.

The Naval and Military Pensions Bill has gone through many vicissitudes at the hands of the Houses of Parliament, and deserves to go through many more. A matter so vitally important deserved a better treatment than an unsatisfactory compromise between private and Government control and voluntary and Government funds. No one was satisfied with the Bill as it was; neither the House of Commons nor the great voluntary associations which have so great an experience of the work to be done, and we must again congratulate the House of Lords on dealing with it in such a drastic manner. The changes they proposed when they sent it back to the Commons on September 23rd so largely alter the Bill that it will have to be considered all over again. Possibly other sweeping changes are in prospect, and we may in the end get the "quite different bill" that we and Mrs. Humphry Ward unite in hoping for. Meanwhile, we can hardly resist pointing the moral of all this tiresome confusion and delay, for the Bill is a woman's Bill, and women ought to be allowed to mind their own business.

Mrs. Humphry Ward's Suggestions.

Mrs. Humphry Ward is writing in the London Press this week on the subject of the War Pensions Bill. Curiously enough, many of her suggestions are those with which Suffragists will heartily agree. She wants the War Pensions and Allowances Bill to be replaced by another measure. One improvement on the present Bill which she advocates is an amendment giving power to the local Committee to pay pensions through the local Committee and its offices, and not through the Post Office. Such a power would be invaluable for the protection of the children, where such protection is needed.

Mrs. Humphry Ward also urges—and every woman who has done any social work at all will second her demand—that women should be represented on all the local Committees, and not merely represented, but that a third of the members should be women. "This obligatory proportion is a matter of simple justice, in view of the work they have done for the Government and the country."

How is it that Mrs. Humphry Ward comes to voice the demands of the women workers on such a matter as a House of Commons Bill? We were always of the opinion that she considered such matters beyond our ken and did not mind if the opinions of women were "contemptuously ignored." Yet now she is "begging" the House of Commons to listen to her appeal and asking them to insist on a new Bill. It is hard to recognise the Anti-Suffragist in her new guise.

Will Our Leaders Lead?

By an Order in Council, approved by the King and Gazetted on September 23rd, the whole of the London area will be scheduled and brought beneath the Liquor Control Regulations, under the Defence of the Realm Act, "on the grounds that war material is being made, loaded, unloaded, and dealt with in transit therein, and that men belonging to his Majesty's Naval and Military forces are assembled therein." Further, "treating" will be forbidden, spirits will be diluted, and the restriction of hours will be carefully considered.

From this scheduling of the London area the House of Commons is exempt! The men who do more than deal with "war material," who decide the great and vital questions relating to the war, are not placed under the schedule at all! Some years ago an eminent legal authority gave it as his opinion that the sale of alcoholic drinks within the precincts of the Houses of Parliament was illegal. But the question has not come before the Courts, and here it has remained. Our law-givers continue technically to evade the law. The King has set us all an example, which they have so far refused to follow. Now comes the great opportunity to lead. Will they take it? Can they mean to present a flagrant and scandalous instance of disrespect for the laws framed by themselves for the Defence of the Realm and public safety?

Germany and War Losses.

Germany is beginning already to look ahead and to prepare remedies for the depopulation caused by war. At Cologne a great school has been established for training social workers to start Maternity Schools in country districts. This is a completely new departure. Hitherto such maternity schools as there were have been confined to urban districts; but during the present war, the large proportion of healthy recruits drawn from the country districts has impressed the military authorities. It was evidently felt that Germany could not afford to neglect the source of future supplies of robust soldiers; so the movement was set on foot. The country children are objects of especial

care. Since the war broke out the Empire has also made a grant to mothers. At first this maternity grant was made only to the wives of all insured workers, but it was very soon extended to all necessitous wives. As the separation allowances are very small in amount, this Imperial grant and a further allowance for nursing mothers will give the peasant babies a better start in life, and the newly started health visitors (an idea, by the way, which Germany has taken over from us) will teach the mothers up-to-date methods of rearing their children. It is curiously painful that all this conscientious care for child-welfare should be taken with a view to the soldier, and that the spirit of militarism should pervade even the care for the cradle. The announcement of the Prussian Minister of Justice that young girls under sixteen are now to be allowed and even encouraged to contract marriages, and that such unions are regarded of "great future importance," is another significant and ominous sign.

Women's Suffrage in Alberta.

A paragraph in a London paper of September 23rd announced that the Suffrage was about to be granted to women in Alberta. Inquiries have been made at the London offices of the Alberta Government and of the High Commissioner for Canada, but so far no confirmation of the rumour is forthcoming. We are informed that the next meeting of the Alberta Legislature will be in February, 1916, and that the Government does not as a rule issue its programme beforehand.

"Street Housemaids."

Everybody who has travelled on the Continent will remember the neat and trim women, many of them elderly women, armed with a scraper and a barrow, who look after the tidying-up of the streets, and manage the tramway points. In Munich, in particular, the green-clad, business-like women, with their baize aprons, are a pleasant feature of street life. On inquiring what they were called, the long German name for them proved so formidable that the inquirer said comfortably, "Well, I shall call them 'street housemaids,' they look much too nice to be called 'women-scavengers!'" We have the pleasure, this week, of giving our readers a delightful account of the successful experiment made by the Borough of Gateshead-on-Tyne, who have been quick to realise the advantages of employing women for the work.

More Women Factory Inspectors.

The writer of a letter to *The New Statesman* calls attention to the small number of women factory inspectors (22 out of about 160, including Class II. inspectors), and says, "in all that relates to the pressure on women-workers, insanitation, defective ventilation, breaches of the Truck Act, oppressive fines, overtime, all the thousand and one ways in which the lives and work of girls and women can be made a burden to them. Women can inspect more effectively than can men, and it is not the slightest disparagement of men to say so." It is pre-eminently women's work. Just now, especially when large numbers of young women are doing unaccustomed work in munition and other factories, the watchful eyes of experienced women factory inspectors are more than ever needed. One lady in charge of an important district said lately that she had four assistants, but there was work enough for twenty.

Fuel and the Future.

In the Chemistry Section of the British Association, Professor W. C. Bone, the president, declared that fuel economy would be one of the most important questions after the war. The millions of pounds which we might save in our annual coal-bill would go a long way towards repaying the War Loan! Why should we not begin to save at once. Four tons of coal per head per annum of the population of the United Kingdom is our present rate of consumption. We are pointing out in this week's leading article that it is within our own power to stop the waste of millions of tons of coal even now.

Women as Motor-Cab Drivers.

Mr. Agg Gardner has given notice of a question to be asked in Parliament which will be of interest to our readers. He is to ask the Home Secretary (Sir John Simon) "whether applications by women for licences to drive motor-cabs plying for hire have been refused by the Metropolitan Police, and if so on what grounds the refusal has been based." So many women are driving delivery-vans and motor-cars in the streets of London that it is more than ever ridiculous that they should not be allowed to drive cars for hire, and we hope that this question may be followed by a new and suitable opening for work for women.

Chestnuts.

Old habits cling! Even in war-time they cling! *The Daily Mail* representative, who wrote so facetiously about "Suffragette surgeons," after a visit paid to one of our hospitals in France, fell into the pit dug for those who set out, taking their clichés with them. A hospital staffed entirely by women, equipped by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and given to France for her wounded soldiers, offered (one would have supposed) a wealth of interesting new material. But the writer could not keep "the Suffragettes' hammer" out of his mind. It had no sort of bearing on the matter, and the women surgeons were not "Militant Suffragettes"; all the same it went, like "King Charles's Head" into Mr. Dick's memorial. The stale jibe sticks to the facile pen.

National Union of Women Workers.

Our readers are reminded of the Annual Conference and Council Meetings of the National Union of Women Workers, which are to be held next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Central Hall, Westminster. Full particulars and tickets of admission can be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.W.W., Parliament Mansions, Westminster.

Our Special Hospital Number.

On November 12th we are going to bring out a Special N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital Number, and we earnestly hope that members will use all their endeavours to make this number a success. We want a Grand Sale Day all over the country on November 12th; and hope also to sell this Special Number right on, as we feel confident that this will be a source of revenue to the hospitals. There will be illustrations on the front page, which should greatly help the sale, and, in addition to special articles about the hospitals from France and Serbia, we are devoting part of the paper to accounts of the work and help given by the Societies.

FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCES.

VI.—Engineering as a Profession for Women.

Owing to so many women of all classes having been brought into contact with machinery since the outbreak of war, their interest in engineering has greatly increased. It can now be more safely considered as a coming profession for our sex, particularly in special branches; also in the less-skilled grades of an engineer's work, there is a large opening as a trade for women who are clever with their hands and have a certain amount of initiative. Personally, I consider these opportunities will continue and probably increase after the war.

An article in a contemporary somewhat confused the professions of architecture and engineering; it should therefore be clearly understood that the following remarks apply solely to the latter, except in so far as civil engineering and mechanical draughtsmanship apply to anything similar in an architect's career.

No one should think of taking up engineering as a profession in any one of the branches—civil, mechanical, or electrical—unless she is prepared to go through the very hardest theoretical and practical training, and, for the latter, nothing can ever take the place of going through the "shops"—that is, serving a regular apprenticeship in proper engineering works. Up to the present this has been the great stumbling-block in our way of progression in this fine profession, but conditions have changed so drastically that this may not be so difficult of attainment in the future.

From a good deal of experience in advising women upon adopting engineering as a career, and from teaching them, I am sorry to have found a bad flaw in our sex. The flaw is this, that women are not content to spend either the same time, money, or patient concentration upon their training as boys and

men are for their professions. They are offended when taught in the same way as a boy would be for his "shop" experience, and yet, *until* they start, this is what they ask for! Girls want to run before they can walk. The theoretical side being usually learnt at a college, they cannot escape the prescribed period of training. It is the practical teacher who has the difficulty in making a woman-apprentice realise that to become anything approaching an efficient engineer of any sort she must spend weeks and sometimes months learning what appears the most insignificant work. Women do not like, for instance, to be put, day after day, to do filing. They think that a few hours should suffice, and soon want to "turn handles and levers." This was the reason given me by an engineer as his objection to teaching women. We should take this as a warning, and, unless possessed of patience and great perseverance, select one branch of engineering and specialise on some particular work in connection with that branch. In this way the interesting part of one's work can be reached a little more quickly. However, for even the simplest course of training to learn things which barely come under the category of "engineering," such as "running repairs" to motor-cars, there should be no escape from spending at least double the time the pupils consider necessary to learn the simplest work.

Although the foregoing remarks cannot be impressed too strongly upon girls who are considering any branch of engineering as a profession, there is no need for those who want to work in one special branch of the engineering trades (either for war work or permanent employment), to think that a long and arduous training is imperative for them. The special short courses of training now being arranged for these workers should be ample for their requirements. The principal objective in these cases is that the intending worker should have an opportunity of testing her aptitude for the work she wishes to undertake; also, that she should be able to enter the works as a trained operative, avoiding giving managers and foremen a bad opinion of women's work.

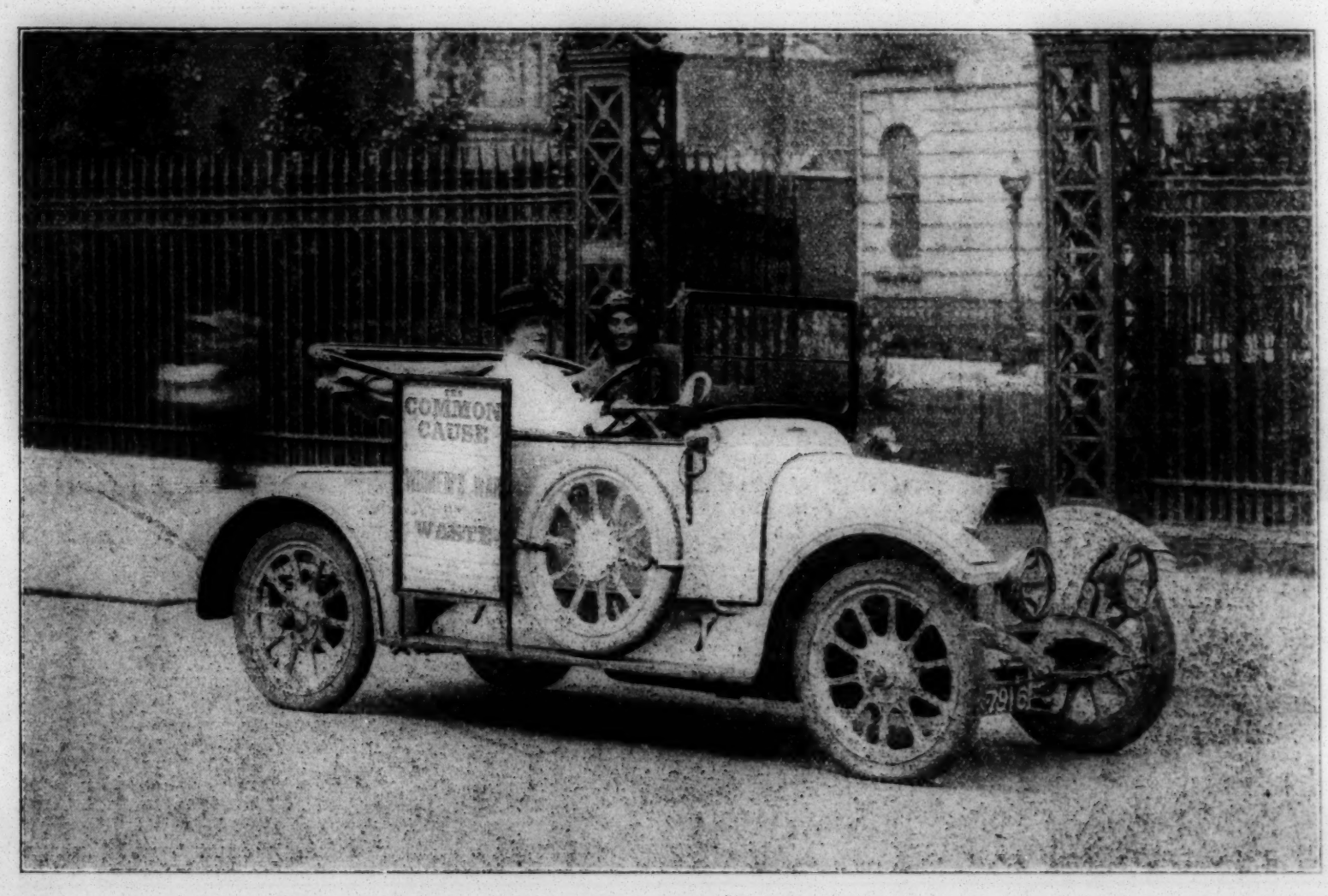
As in many other professions, England is one of the last countries to acknowledge that women can enter some of the departments of engineering quite successfully. Russia has led the way for some years past. In that country women have been admitted to many engineering works as designers and draughtswomen. A Russian lady in England has recently been working at the study of mining engineering; and yet another of her countrywomen carried off the prize position in a competitive examination with men for a post as road-engineer.

In Switzerland, the U.S.A., and Canada women are working as engineers. Fortunately, even in our conservative British Isles, there is no definite bar to our entering the profession, but we suffer from the great drawback of not being allowed the same letters after our names, by not being permitted membership (on the same lines as men) of the principal engineering institutes, with the exception of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The higher, or more theoretical, degrees of B.Sc. and D.Sc. for engineering are granted to women by most of our Universities, with the exception of Oxford and Cambridge. At the latter ladies are allowed to work in the engineering laboratories, but they are not granted degrees. The London City Guilds, and Board of Education examinations are available, and were the first boards I personally tested. They set up no objections, and I obtained my certificates on the same terms as male students.

I will not enter into the subjects necessary to study for degrees and certificates, as they are all fully detailed in the various syllabuses. After a good course of training has been completed there are numerous openings suitable to the particular capacities of the individual. Those who have good mathematical qualifications should direct their attention to civil engineering or draughtsmanship and designing in all branches. On the scientific side there are, or should be, opportunities for work in engineering and metallurgical laboratories, and as lecturers and laboratory assistants. For the more practical, openings are daily occurring now as mechanical managers to lady farmers, manageresses of printing works, steam and electrical laundries. There is also work, eminently suitable to feminine hands, in the repairing of electrical instruments. Space forbids at present more detailed description, but full particulars can, I believe, be obtained through the Women's Service Department, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

C. Griff.



Miss C. Griff, consulting engineer, and Miss E. Vaughan Jenkins, a staunch supporter of *The Common Cause*, who learnt to drive her car at the Ladies' Automobile School.

Revenue from Coal.

The price of coal to the poorest consumers promises this winter to be higher than ever—far higher, indeed, than it need be. While fixing the prices to be charged by merchants, Mr. Runciman professed himself to be unable to devise any means to safeguard the poor from extortion, and cases come to light where the rate has been as high as 40s. per ton. There do not appear to be insuperable difficulties in the way of licensing street-hawkers, and making licences conditional on the retail prices being painted conspicuously on their carts and barrows. The police are numerous enough to keep an eye on them and report cases of extortion.

The more important question as to the extent to which coal may be made to help pay for the war has been left untouched. And yet we have beneath our feet a national asset of the value of over £20,000,000,000. It is estimated that one hundred thousand million tons of coal lies within comparatively easy reach beneath our hills and valleys, and a further four hundred thousand million off the Northumbrian and Welsh coasts. Now, this is an absolutely natural product, existing here since an inconceivably remote antiquity, and forming part of a massive formation thousands of feet thick, buried in places three to four thousand feet beneath the surface, underlying great and populous tracts in the most flourishing parts of England, Scotland, and Wales. The coal-bearing formation is, in fact, one of the great bed-rocks on which the British Isles have been built up.

It is certain that no human agency had a hand in the production of coal, neither is it a mere surface deposit to go with the land. It is equally certain that no man or body of men have at any time purchased from the nation its stock of coal, the cash value of which runs into billions. As things are to-day coal is hardly less essential to our existence than air and water, for without fires to warm and cook with civilisation would end. Moreover, it is as essential to manufacturers as blood is to the body. Coal has given us the command of the seas and made the ocean our high road; by it, in fact, the British Empire has been built up, and by it the Empire must stand by sea and land for centuries to come.

Land was originally acquired by fighting, grabbing, squatting, or barter. It could be held for the shoeing of a horse, the blowing of a horn, the payment of a peppercorn, or the rendering of yeoman or knightly service. Later, it changed hands by legacy, agreements, or purchase, when the value was based on the produce, amount of stock, or families it would support. No value was set on minerals unless being actually quarried and sold. Certainly no money consideration was likely to have passed for minerals not known to exist or regarded as inaccessible. How did this vast and inconceivably valuable national asset, the enormous extent and value of which was scarcely even suspected a couple of centuries ago, come to be private property without restriction or fee of any kind?

Perhaps some obscure and insignificant legal squabble of a century or so ago led to the inconsiderate decision which gave away *gratis*, to the surface owner, all the undiscovered mineral wealth of these isles, however deep in the bowels of the earth, down, in fact, to its very centre. Thus, may have been handed over to the descendants possibly of land-grabbers, mortgagors, or money-lenders an asset amounting to twenty thousand million pounds in the value of coal alone, for which no money had been paid, to exploit, gut, and dispose as they please, without limit, licence, tax, or fee. This most momentous and astounding of "judgments" may be recorded in some musty and forgotten tome, but should form part of the nation's history. It might conceivably have been given either way, but since neither judge, litigant, or public had the remotest idea of what it meant, it was allowed to pass unchallenged as a precedent, and thus became part of the uncodified, patchy, and dubious "law of the land." That Parliament, however, should never have anulled it, looked into the ownership of coal, or sought to make revenue out of it, shows an utterly unbusinesslike disregard of the nation's interests which would be incomprehensible were it not obvious that politicians are wholly absorbed in the party game.

It is well known that duties of 1s. per ton on coal, when repealed, left the selling price unaffected. The shillings were promptly annexed by the middleman. That shilling duty Mr. Runciman tells us, means £9,000,000 revenue. The great fluctuations in the price of Welsh steam coal show that several shillings per ton duty would not affect the sales, and a war tax of thirty to forty millions at least might be raised without injury to any class. Further, sums could be secured by giving serious attention to the very valuable by-products, while the residual coke might be retailed at the lowest possible prices as the fuel of the poor.

Alys Bateman.

War Work on the Land.

The Agricultural Department of the Leeds University, which manages a farm near the city (of course, working under the Board of Agriculture), undertook, last July, fortnightly free courses of instruction for women in farm work. The amount of instruction compressed into the fortnight was very considerable, for it included milking, cleaning, and bedding-down of cows, calf-feeding, getting in loads of roots, straw, &c., for the following day's use, mixing and grinding of cake, poultry work of various kinds, and so on. It was all valuable practical work. It was hoped that these classes would enable the women attending them to discover whether they had any real aptitude for the work and would wish to undertake it permanently, and as the whole thing, board and all, was free, the poorest could benefit by them. The number of women who instantly volunteered was more than 500—but only 34, owing, amongst other reasons to limited accommodation at the hostel, could be accepted.

Of these thirty-four the majority were what our Agricultural Professor calls "women who live at home"; but there were domestic servants and factory hands included in the minority. The latter (factory hands) are the class who, I think, will benefit greatly from this venture; not only physically but mentally. People herded together in our horrid, noisy streets, and used to airless back-to-back houses, regard the country mostly as a convenient place for school teas; a place which you can despoil of everything which makes it lovely, because it has no connection with our souls, but is merely a playground or a sanatorium for human creatures; these being the only aspects under which they see it, and the only view taken of it by the district visitor and the ordinary school teacher. How can we ever expect right thinking and true reverence if we never teach either about the great earth? Jaurès expressed something of this in the following sentence:—

"How many times, in wandering along the paths across fields, I have suddenly said to myself that it was the earth I trod, and that I belonged to her and she belonged to me; and without thinking about it I slowed down because it was not worth while hurrying over her surface, as at each step I felt her and possessed her completely, and my soul, if I may say so, walked in her depths."

As far as I can ascertain, only one or two of the thirty-four pupils have dropped the work owing to want of strength. The others have obtained situations on farms in various parts of England, and the Labour Exchange which found them the places tells me they are giving the farmers every satisfaction.

Some more of these classes are beginning again in October. The hopes of those who began them have been realised, and the short course has proved, on the whole, long enough to test the students' feelings about going in for farm work seriously and permanently. Of course, it sounds rather a sketchy kind of apprenticeship, and again makes one see how enormously clever the world of professors and officials hold women to be, since two weeks is considered enough time in which to teach them all these intricate and serious matters. But it is a beginning, and perhaps when these women are confronted with farm work under a farmer, who is more often than not a man who holds women's work to be less valuable than men's, owing to our age-long, shameful underpayment of women farm hands, perhaps they will urge that other women after them receive longer instruction before coming into the labour market. In the meantime, I, for one, feel very grateful to the Board of Agriculture and to our University for what they have done so far. A most capable lady who is in charge of the hostel, and who also trains these students, is keenly interested in these experiments, and, I hear, regards them as forerunners to something larger and better.

Isabella O. Ford.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES KEIR HARDIE.

Every Suffragist will have heard with deep regret, mingled with deep gratitude for his ardent services to our cause, of the death of Mr. Keir Hardie. No more sincere, true-hearted, and strenuous advocate of the principles of liberty and justice, as applied to women, ever breathed. It is in a large degree owing to his influence and determination that the Socialist movement in this country did not identify itself with a denial to women of those elementary rights to free citizenship which it claimed for men. Those who attended the last International Congress of Women Suffragists at Budapest in 1913 will not forget the valiant stand he made in endeavouring to convince the foreign Socialists who gathered to hear him, many of whom had opposed every extension of political liberty to women, that in so doing they were denying their faith in order to make their faith prevail.

The obituary notices in the daily Press have nearly all touched upon Mr. Hardie's obvious limitations and drawbacks, and I am not disposed at such a moment to enter into a discussion upon them; but I would ask readers of The Common Cause not to form their opinion of Mr. Hardie simply from what they have read of him in the newspapers. He entered upon the hard life of manual labour in a coal mine when he was eight years old; he was self-educated. He kept untarnished throughout life, an absolutely fearless and independent spirit, together with great depths of gentleness and helpfulness to all who were desolate and oppressed. He was an idealist, and, in spirit, a poet, seeing things less as they seemed to be to the ordinary mind than as he sought to make them.

Much as many of us may have differed from him in political opinions, I do not believe there is one of us, who has known him personally, who does not feel that the public life of our country and time is higher and purer for his influence and is the poorer for his death. Millicent Garrett Fawcett.

Correspondence.

ODDS AND ENDS OF WOOL.

Madam,—Will you kindly allow me through your columns to tender cordial thanks to all those who have so promptly responded to my appeal for odds and ends of wool? Thanks to their generosity, several rugs are now in process of making, and as long as wool continues to come in, we hope to continue to knit. Only last week I heard from a prisoner that already the cold was becoming a hardship, so that the kind donors can feel sure that their wool is really adding to the comfort (or rather, lessening the discomfort) of at least a few of our men.

Foss Lodge, Cirencester. Grace E. Hadow.

ECONOMY IN FIREWOOD.

Madam,—Now that many women have to economise in every possible way, and we are all urged, in the words of the poster, to "make every penny do the work of two," may I suggest a few ways of economising in firewood, which was dear last year and will certainly be dearer and scarcer this winter?

There is no need to use half a bundle of wood for lighting every fire, as is done in so many houses; with a little care two or three sticks are quite sufficient. Strips of newspaper twisted into the shape of Catherine wheels are a good substitute, but the paper must be twisted *very tightly*, or else it is useless. These should be placed on the top of a layer of cinders, with a couple of pieces of wood, and then more cinders and coal. Apple, orange, and potato peel should be carefully kept, as if they are first dried in the oven they will make a fire burn up quickly and brightly. Match-boxes, too, are valuable in these days, and, instead of being thrown into the dustbin, should be used for firewood; if soaked in paraffin they will, of course, burn even better. These little ways of economising are quite simple and little trouble, and there is no reason why they cannot be carried out in every household. E. C.

THE ANTI-GERMAN UNION.

The Hon. Secretary of the Anti-German Union, 346, Strand, W.C., writes to point out that this Society has no connection of any kind with the Anti-German League, or with the advertisement from *Everyman*, quoted by Miss M. Dorothea Jordan. He points out that both the objects and methods of the Union are different from that of the League, and offers to send full particulars of its work to any of our readers. "With regard," he writes, "to the incident of the Forest Hill German Church, the Union feels very strongly—not, of course, that Germans should not be free to worship—but that German centres of influence should not be permitted, especially in London, at this time of acute national peril. In the view of the Union, London should be made a 'prohibited area,' and all Germans removed from it. Assemblages of Germans should only be allowed in internment camps. This point of view has so far impressed itself on the authorities that a further internment of Germans in London is now taking place, and the pastor of the German Church is himself, I understand, being sent to a camp. Will you allow me to point out that the spirit of the Union as an organisation is in no way one of futile hatred, but of reasonable precaution? A great danger to the nation has been revealed, and the Union exists to see that proper precautions are taken that the nation may not be imperilled again in the same way."

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The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war.

What Coal Means to a Nation.

A Frenchman's View.

To M. de Launay, of the Académie des Sciences, coal is power.* Without coal a nation, like the foolish virgin of the parable who had no oil in her vessel with her lamp, is left in outer darkness. Italy has no coal-beds. In Spain there is but little; while France can only produce (in peace) about two-thirds of her requirements; and those are the countries that Germany has viewed with especial contempt. "The so-called decadence of the Latin races is one effect of the absence of carboniferous strata in their countries; this deprives them of the privileges due to their ages of civilisation and their intellectual superiority. Coal is the dominant factor."

England is divided into two countries—"a green England and a black England." The green England of the south-east and south once ruled her destinies and contained her wealth. Now it bears witness to a great past in noble cities and traditions of the ancient national life at a time when the west and north were poor, sparsely peopled, and relatively barbarous. But within the last hundred years the balance of power has shifted to the north and west. If you draw a line from Cardiff to Birmingham, and from Nottinghamshire to Newcastle-on-Tyne and thence to Glasgow, including Lanarkshire, you have the rough outline of the "black England and Scotland," of coal and iron, full of manufacturing cities which have grown up out of the coalfields, and full of seaports close to the mining centres. Coal and coast-line are the two essentials; Great Britain has both. "Black England," for M. de Launay, is the industrial England of the steamage, and the Britain of expansion and Imperialism. He perhaps forgets, for his own reasons, what we are more likely to remember, that the foundations of Greater Britain were laid by the men of the great sailing-ships. But he takes up his parable that coal is power, and turns to Germany, who has come into possession of the coal but not the sea-coast line she wants.

"The idea is very widely spread that the prosperity of Germany is due to the prestige of the victory of 1870 and the strong military organisation of the Empire. The Germans themselves are the first to proclaim the belief." The uniting of the German States under Prussian over-rule, and the encouragement the Government was disposed to give to the development of industry, would not have been sufficient in themselves to produce the extraordinary rapid advance in material prosperity of the last forty years. The credit is given to Hohenzollern rule by German professors, appointed to their posts by the Government for the purpose of preaching Pan-Germanism. But not the "will to power," nor the Teutonic "moral" qualities, nor the kultur, which the Teuton wishes to impose upon us, would have availed without the Westphalian coalfields, upon which modern Germany has thriven. And it so happened that the development of Westphalia began precisely in these years since 1870. The epoch of prosperity and ambition coincide exactly with the growth of the coal supply. In 1880 the output was about fifty million tons. Manufacturing towns grew up. Crefeld, Düsseldorf, Essen, Sollingen, and Elberfeld. Coal, the true

* *Le Problème de la Houille.* By M. L. de Launay, in the Revue des deux Mondes. September 1st, 1915.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

"Rheingold," was carried by the Rhine and over the canal systems to a hundred places more. But Germany still was at a disadvantage. The nearest sea-coast was not German. The mouths of the Rhine, Maas, and Scheldt were in the hands of the Dutch and Belgians. Besides, Germany, now rich in coal, had little iron, and openly avowed her intention of appropriating the iron mines of Lorraine.

By 1913 the annual output of Westphalia had reached 279 million tons (including lignite and inferior coals), and though the latest discoveries had hardly had time to take effect when war broke out, Germany has produced more coal than Great Britain for seven years past, and geologists believe that her reserves of coal underground double our own.

The coalfields cover an enormous area. They stretch southwards into Belgium, spread across Liège and Namur and the Basin of Charleroi, and enter Northern France as a diminishing wedge only about ten miles wide. The French and Belgian collieries are at present in German hands, and worked by enslaved labour, are sending large quantities to Germany, who has other work for her own miners.

The sudden overpowering of Belgium was cunningly planned. It was, of course, easier to attack France on her unfortified frontier, but the dash across Belgium was also a rush for the coast, and, at the same time, for the iron mines of Lorraine. The Chancellor announced to the Reichstag the immense importance of that acquisition. Without the iron Germany would have been seriously handicapped in the war.

Millions have been spent in Germany on encouraging industries, on building up commerce, and endowing chemical research, on subsidising manufactures so that they might be sold abroad at less than cost price, and lines of steamers that they might compete (even at a loss) with those of other nations, and so gain a footing for Germany in the world's carrying trade. Millions have been lavished on munitions, as subsidies to Turkey and other countries, on secret service, on bribes, on corruption, on buying up the press abroad, on starting newspapers to give German versions of "the truth."

The Westphalian and Silesian coalfields directly and indirectly found the means to pay for all this and more. M. de Launay says coal means power, and shows what it has done in the past.

In the future, British chemists tell us that the question of the right utilisation of our coal-wealth will be the most important national question after the war. With improved appliances and efficient public supervision it will be possible to save many millions of pounds annually in our coal bill. The savings effected would redeem a large amount of the War Loan, and all this can be done with a positive gain in efficiency. But let us, in the meantime, remember what our coal-beds mean to us, and begin at once to follow out the advice of the War Savings Committee:—

To save our Coal;

To use Gas-Coke whenever possible;

To burn Gas itself, so as to economise in coal, and, at the same time, to assist in the production of by-products in the gas-works which are necessary for the production of certain explosives now largely being used in the war.

Even half a ton of coal saved by each household will mean a national saving of enormous value, which can be effected AT ONCE without waiting for the end of the war.

"Street-Housemaids."

A new section of women's work has been begun in Newcastle-on-Tyne and in Gateshead, where women are employed by the Corporation as street-scavengers. They have been at the work some three months, with apparent success. "They do it better than the men," remarked a Gateshead friend, "although," she rather unkindly added, "that is not saying much."

As I wished to learn more of their work, and had no official information about it, I found my way, one evening this week, to the house of one of these "street-housemaids," as I have called them, to hear their own views of their labour, and whether or not, in their opinion, it was suitable work for other women.

The dim light in the passage behind her showed a rather slightly-built, youngish woman in a blue pinafore. She quickly grasped my purpose, and very readily began to talk of her work.

"Like it?" she said. "I wouldn't give it up now for a lot. I don't think any of us would. I used to be in service, and after that I got married, and now and then I did a bit of washing by the day. But when you're sweeping there's no one standing over you, nor bullying you, and if you're feeling puffed and tiredlike, well, then you just stop for a minute or two. You make it up after; you work all the better for it. We've got a real good 'gaffer' over us; he never nags.

"And, then, it's that healthy! Why, when I was going out washing people used always to be saying, 'You don't look strong. You've no colour.' Now they keep saying, 'My, your work's suiting you! You're getting fat on it'—and you can see what a colour I've got. Oh, yes, I was tired enough at first, I can tell you. It was the fresh air, I expect. When I'd had my tea I used hardly to be able to keep my eyes open, and 'he' used to say: 'Why don't you lie down and rest yourself a bit? There's nothing to hinder you.' And so I lay down on the sofa, and I used to sleep till they wakened me to go to bed. Stooping? No, there's not much, but if it's dry and windy, then the bits of paper blow about and you have to stoop and pick them up. Where did I ache? Where didn't I, you'd better say! I felt I'd never get the feeling out of me arms"—and she made as though pushing a broom—"but now I'm all right. I've been at it three months, and I'm not that tired now but what I can tidy up the house a bit at nights. You see we finish at four, and I have the week-ends. We're done at twelve on Saturdays, and on Sundays, if we like to go out, we get three shillings extra, and then we work in the early morning, from four till eight, or from five till nine. That is, if we can get done by then; but it takes us all our time.

"The dust was bad, especially at first. It blew till it fair covered us, but it's better now. How's that? Why, we're getting the place put to rights a bit now, don't you see. The men didn't do it half. My! what a state it was in! Now, we and the gang I'm in (there's six of us, a real nice set) we get to know each other, and we can work into each other's hands, as you might say. We've been doing the bit we're on now for about six weeks, so, you see, by now we know the places well. It's just like in a room, you get to know the corners. It's nice when your broom's new and cleans well, but if it's worn then you sort of get disheartened. They're the ordinary sort of hard brooms, and they last about three weeks. Clothes? Oh, I just go out in this blue pinafore, and sometimes I put on 'his' cap. No, we've no uniform. Some wear coarse aprons, but I don't think they look nice, do you? I think the pinafores look best. Some special sort of dress? Well, what could we have? Leggings, they say, we're going to have in the winter. We're wondering what we'll do then. We might have rainproof coats. Our hands'll get hard, I expect. Mine are chapped now, and chapped-hands is a thing I've never had before, but they're stiffening and getting hard. Then we go out so early; it'll be dark in the winter, and we'll not can see where we're sweeping. Oh, no, we wouldn't like to give it up; we'll manage somehow.

"But won't you come and see us sweeping? I can tell you where you can see us in the mornings, if you'll come"—and so she finished her talk, and, on my hoping that perhaps, if I came, her friends in the "gang" might also be willing to tell me their opinions, too. "Willing?" she said. "They'll be glad of your bit crack!"

So next morning, with a bright September sun, and the wind of a hilly Gateshead street, I followed my "gang." I saw them first in the distance—five altogether. One was sweeping the heaps of dust and refuse on to a large shovel held by a man, who then threw it into a large dust-cart. Further ahead were four more figures, two on each half of the road. They were all youngish women, nearer thirty than forty years of age. At a word from my friend of the night before, the

others all came over to speak to me, all looking friendly and interested, and enthusiastic on the subject of their work. The biggest and healthiest-looking, I was told, was "ganger" to the rest; she had to direct their work, and she was paid a halfpenny an hour more than the others, who received fourpence-halfpenny an hour, their wages usually amounting to sixteen shillings a week, not including Sunday work. The men had received sixpence an hour, I was told, but had worked two hours a day longer, and had also been required to clean a certain fixed district daily, while the women, as they expressed it, "just did what they could." There were thirty of them in all, they said.

The "ganger" had worked at Elswick for two months, but after this her health broke down, and the doctor said she was too anæmic to continue. Three months in the open air, however, had worked wonders. Another woman was the wife of a solider reported missing nine months ago. She was receiving some allowance—she did not say how much—but evidently felt she was happier with some occupation. She had, before her marriage, worked in a rabbit-skin factory, but much preferred her present work. A rather silent member of the gang remarked that the hardest work she had ever done was cleaning out a theatre. Sometimes she found sweeping tiring, too, and had once had "three days off," but she was anxious to continue, and showed with pride how hard her palms were becoming with handling her broom. Apparently, they preferred to work at present without any protection for the hands, but hoped they would be given long gloves in winter, with sou'-westers, oilskin-coats, and leggings.

All of them had been working about three months, and all were eager to continue, the "ganger" remarking that she "wouldn't mind taking a shovel." Like other women doing unusual work at this time, they had found themselves received as a matter of course by onlookers, and had not been tormented with "chaff." They seemed quite oblivious to what I felt was one great drawback to their work, the absence of a uniform specially adapted for the purpose. "What could we wear?" they asked. The question is difficult to answer, but a woman's ordinary dress is peculiarly ill-suited to this work, and if her wardrobe is so limited that she cannot make a complete change each evening, it must be distinctly unwholesome.

One of their few complaints was of discourtesy on the part of one or two householders, when, with dust-burned throats, they had asked for a drink of water. One woman had offered it in a pan, "as if we were something unclean because we're doing this," as a sweeper indignantly remarked. "But then"—and we all heartily agreed—"you'll always find some folk who have no sense at all. It's ignorance; that's it, pure ignorance!"

M. W.

Back-Yard Poultry-Keeping.

I.—Starting Hens.

Many people do not know how easily a regular supply of eggs can be obtained if they have a few yards of waste ground. And to-day there are not only the considerations that it is profitable to keep hens and nice to have eggs of the best quality, but everyone who keeps even a few chickens successfully is adding just a little to the national food supply. A piece of ground 20ft. by 20ft., if sunny and airy, is large enough for six hens.

A house can be made at home of old packing-cases, or an excellent one, called the "King House," for £1, with 4s. 6d. extra for the floor, can be bought from Charles Toopes & Sons, Stepney Square. It is sent in sections, which anyone can screw together, and needs creosoting inside and out, which will cost about 5d. A yard, if not surrounded by a paling or a wall, will have to be netted with chicken wire, 5ft. high, at 6d. a yard, and if it has to be done on every side the cost, with stakes and gate-fastenings, will come to about £1. Both wire and houses will last, and can at any time be re-sold at about two-thirds their original price. Young pullets can be bought for about 4s. and re-sold at the end of three years for 2s. 6d. They should each lay not less than thirteen dozen eggs, valuing, on the average, 1s. 6d. a dozen, or 19s. 6d. worth of eggs a year; and their food for that time will cost 5s. or less, if there are many household scraps. It is difficult to prophesy about prices, but it is fairly safe to suppose that if poultry-keep goes up, poultry products will go up too; so, judging from present prices and past results, the following table shows what profits anyone starting poultry-keeping this autumn may reasonably expect:—

Profit and Loss Account for Six Hens for Three Years.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cost of hens	1	4	0	Hens resold after 3 years		15	0
Feeding	4	10	0	234 doz. eggs at 1s. 6d.	17	11	0
Cost of house and wire ...	2	4	6	House and wire, resold or valued at	1	9	8
	7	18	6				
Profit	11	17	2				
	£19	15	8		£19	15	8

Perhaps something under £4 a year does not sound great profit, but the capital and labour expended are very small, and the fresh eggs are an asset worth more than the money which would buy the same number in a shop. If the ground is large enough, a "King's House" holds fifteen birds, and the labour is much the same for fifteen as for six, while the cost of wire and house is less in proportion; but six or eight is a very good number to begin with, as the fewer hens the further the house scraps go in feeding them and the less cost per head to keep.

For hens which are not for breeding, stout, healthy mongrels are as good as any. Birds of prize strain are much more expensive, and often the additional price is only on account of the shading of their feathers or the shape of their combs, points which do not affect their laying. They certainly look nicer, but a well-bred air is a luxury which a utility poultry-keeper on a small scale with an eye to profit must do without, though it is permissible to try and choose birds sufficiently well bred to claim to belong to some definite breed, as they are generally a better shape than those which come from too-widely different parents. For a small yard fairly heavy birds are the best, as the lighter kinds like more space. Large feet and stout legs are supposed to indicate a sound constitution; beyond that any sleek, well-grown pullet will serve. It is best to buy in the neighbourhood, as it saves risks of a journey—the birds catching cold on being a long while without food; also the purchaser has the advantage of seeing if the flock they come from is healthy and well-nourished. Of course, it is just as well not to buy from a henwife who owns hens that have been off the lay for months, as that probably means they have not been properly looked after, and the young ones may have fared no better.

Pullets hatched last March should begin to lay at the end of October; so now is a very good time to start, for when they have once begun to lay their price goes up.

Next week the article will go into the question of feeding, a most important point, as much of the goodness of a hen is put into her by her food.

Sylvia Clark.

N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

France.

The X-ray car supplied by the London Society for Women's Suffrage has arrived safely at Royaumont, and has already been to several hospitals, where it has been much appreciated. It is a great advantage for patients to be able to be examined by X-rays without having to undergo the fatigue of a journey to some hospital where an X-ray apparatus is installed, and it seems likely that the car will enable such work to be done much nearer the lines than has hitherto been possible. The French military authorities say that the car is the finest X-ray car ever used in France. When on view in London just before its departure it was viewed by various Red Cross organisations, and orders for similar cars have now been placed by Russia, Italy, and Japan.

Serbia.

From Valjevo comes the good news that all the members of the unit suffering from enteric are now out of danger. The hospital is very busy.

Although conditions have greatly improved, there are still cases of typhus in Serbia, and there is fear that there will be a recurrence with the return of autumn weather, although it is unlikely to assume the proportions of last year, now that the authorities are in a better position to fight it.

Equipment.

The following articles (in good condition) are required to replenish Hospital Stores. All gifts should be addressed to: The Equipment Secretary, Scottish Women's Hospitals, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; or Miss Burke, Hon. Equipment Secretary, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Clothing.—Dressing-gowns, Handkerchiefs, Hospital Shoes (large sizes, with leather soles), Pyjamas of unbleached calico, Hospital Suits, Pants, Vests, Men's Clothes (old and new).

Bedding and Linen.—Blankets (new and old), Draw Sheets, Feather Pillows, Pillow-cases, Sheets, Towels of all sorts, Bath Gloves.

Medical.—Bandages, Gauze (plenty of calico comes in usual course), Bandage Material, Cotton Wool, Surgeon's Lint, Surgical Strapping.

General.—Air-cushions, Hot-water Bottles (rubber), Rubber Gloves, Safety-pins, Toilet-paper, Razors, Ditto safety, Toilet-soap, Tooth-brushes, Nail-brushes.

Kit-bags: 200 for Troyes, with S.W.H. embroidered on unbleached calico.

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

	£	s.	d.
Forward, as per list of September 16th	60,733	13	3½
Further donations received to September 23rd, 1915:—			
*Workers of Forebank Dye Works, Wm. Watson & Co., Dundee, per J. Murie Cree, Esq.	3	9	9
Mrs. W. Hannah (Serbia) ...	1	1	0
Anon., Kingussie	0	10	0
Miss Florence Robertson ...	0	10	0
*Proceeds of Concert at Savoy Hotel, Mussoorie, India, arranged by Mrs. Caleb Ashfield, Lahore, Punjaub, per Miss Weatherley, Mussoorie	40	4	0
Prestwick's Women's Auxiliary Committee, per Mrs. G. Macfarlane Reid, Vice-Pres. Lunara, Prestwick. To name "Prestwick, Ayrshire," Bed (Serbia). £40 from proceeds of Concert arranged by Mrs. C. Millar, Redstone, Prestwick	50	0	6
Collected at Drawing Room Meeting, held by Mrs. Victor Milward, per Miss Alice M. Milward, Redditch, addressed by Miss Thurston...	9	10	0
Per Miss J. Dick, Joint Prin. Canaan Park College, Edinburgh, to name "Canaan Park College" Beds (Serbia) and (Royaumont)	50	0	0
Mrs. Archibald Young, Sheffield, per Mrs. Lamb, Hon. Sec. Heaton Moor W.S.S. ...	10	0	0
"2,236," 5th Royal Scots ...	1	0	0
Miss E. N. Hudson (for sewing-machine, Serbia) ...	5	0	0
Miss Beveridge	5	0	0
Dr. Rutherford	1	1	0
Miss M. K. Lindsay	1	1	0
Misses Fleming, per Mrs. Scott, Hon. Sec. St. Andrews W.S.S. (Serbia)	1	0	0
*Mrs. Campbell	1	0	0
Part proceeds of Sale of Flowers, per Miss Margaret Wallace (Troyes)	1	1	0
*Pangbourne W.S.S., per Miss L. C. Jones, Hon. Sec., towards O.B.B.Fed. Bed, Mrs. Leighton (2s.), Col. Reilly (10s.), Mrs. Reilly (10s.), Miss Waddington (2s. 6d.), Miss Barnes (6d.)	1	5	0
Parish Church Junior Guild, Tayport, per James A. Alcock, Esq., North of Scotland & Town & County Bank Ltd. (Serbia)	1	0	0
Miss Elder	0	10	0
*Haddington W.S.S., per Miss Helen B. Paterson, Treas. Teviot Lodge, Haddington, proceeds of Garden Fete, held by Mrs. Hope, to maintain (2) "Lamp of Lothian" and "Haddington" Beds (Serbia and France), second six months	100	0	0
Per Misses Gray, Leven, Buckhaven B.W.T.A. (£2 2s.), Mrs. Russell (£2), Leven South St. P.S.A. (£1 10s.) (gifts for Royaumont)	5	12	0
Mrs. T. B. Lawson	5	0	0
Per D. Lamb, Esq., Brechin, salary returned as donation	5	16	4
Per Miss Isabelle Keer, Mrs. Pepper, Cathcart	0	5	0
Mrs. Rottenburg	5	0	0
Mrs. H. B. Macainsh	5	0	0
*Per Mrs. J. C. A. Baird, Muirkirk Coll. Supt. and Nurses East Lothian Co. Nursing Assoc. (Royaumont)	1	5	0
Dr. Cath. Clark	1	1	0
Mrs. McCrie	2	0	0
Miss R. Butler	0	10	0
Miss Elliott	0	10	0
Miss Mackenner	0	5	0
Total	£61,050	0	10½

* Denotes additional donation.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Prestwick, Ayrshire" (Serbia) ...	Prestwick Women's Auxiliary Com., per Mrs. G. MacFarlane Reid, Vice-Pres., proceeds of Concert got up by Mrs. Millar, Prestwick.
"Canaan Park College" (Royaumont)...	Per Miss J. Dick, Joint Prin. Canaan Park Coll., Grange Loan, Edin.
"Canaan Park College" (Serbia) ...	
"Lamp of Lothian" (Serbia) (2nd six months)	Haddington W.S.S., per Miss H. B. Paterson, Hon. Treas. Teviot Lodge, proceeds of Garden Fete, held by Mrs. Hope, Kilduff Ho., Drem.
"Lamp of Lothian" (Royaumont) (2nd six months)	
"Haddington" (Serbia) 2nd six months)	
"Haddington" (Royamont) (2nd six months)	
"Mussoorie" (Serbia)	Per Miss Weatherley, The Deodars, Mussoorie, India.

URGENTLY WANTED.

It is very important that THE SPECIAL HOSPITAL NUMBER, which will be issued on November 12th, should be sold in the streets, not only in London but throughout the country, and sellers are urgently needed.

Miss Burke, of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital, has kindly promised to give a "BAGUE BOCHE" RING, made by one of the wounded while in our hospital in France, and of which we published a description in our issue of July 30th, as a PRIZE to the seller of the largest number of this issue, and it is hoped that there will be a large number of competitors.

The manager will be glad if Societies and "C.C." sellers will let her know how many copies they think of ordering, and whether through the local newsagent or direct from this office.

One of the best ways of doing this is by applying directly to friends for orders, booking them at once, and sending up the orders through the local newsagents.

Let us point out that ordering in this way saves postage!

COMMON CAUSE sellers are urgently wanted on:—

October 5th-7th.—N.U.W.W. Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster.

October 21st.—"Our Wounded" Day.

November 12th.—Special Hospital Number.

Sellers are also needed for Kensington district. Copies of the paper can always be obtained in this district from Miss Bryan, 7, Stratford Road, Kensington.

DERRY & TOMS
KENSINGTON HIGH STREET LONDON W

GREAT LINEN SALE

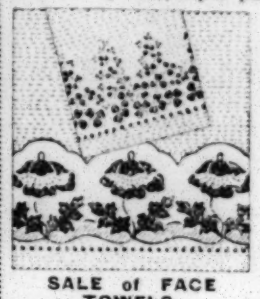
DOWN QUILTS. BLANKETS. CURTAINS.

It is the utmost Importance in these Times that every penny you outlay should buy the best at the lowest Price. *Use this Sale to Save Money. 40 page Catalogue of Bargains posted free.*

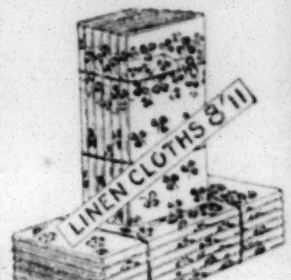
SHEET SALE TO-DAY. 1,000 pair of good quality 10/11 **Cotton Sheets** in Plain, Twill, and a few Hemstitched. **Single & Double Bed.** *Sale Price*, all **8/11** per pair.

BLANKET SALE. Buy your winter comforts now. Prices going up every day. **Single Beds, 12/11, 15/-** per pair. Worth 18/- & 21/-. **Double Bed, 21/-, 25/-.** Worth 27/6 & 29/11.

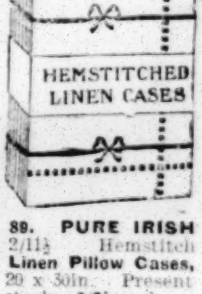
DOWN QUILT SALE. Large choice of 500 **Best Quality** Double Bed, well-filled 18/11. **Down Quilts,** at **15/11** ea. Single Bed, **12/11** ea. Old Rose, Blue, Moss, Red.



SALE of FACE TOWELS. **Carlton.** Irish Linen Huck Towels at 1/11½. 23 x 40in. *Sale Price*, **1 6½** each, **6** for **8/11½.**



60. Inexpensive 8/11 **Linen Damask Cloths,** should measure 2 x 2yd., only measure 66 x 66in. *Sale*, **6/-** each.



Ladies' Linen H'chfs., 6½d. each.

89. PURE IRISH 2/11½ Hemstitch **Linen Pillow Cases,** 20 x 30in. Present stock. **2 6½** each.

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is the best and most wholesome is that it is made of **West Indian cane sugar, fresh butter, and milk,** and contains no artificial ingredients or added glucose.

Of Grocers, Stores, &c.—4 lb. tin, 5/4; 1 lb., 1/4; ½lb., 8d. If unobtainable locally, 4lbs. will be sent, carriage paid, in the United Kingdom for 5/4 by "Cuffy's," 83/87, Union Street, Southwark.

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Members and Friends cordially invited to visit the N.U. Tea Room. Tea served from 4 to 6.30 daily. Price 6d.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Evelyn Atkinson.
Miss Edith Palliser (Literature).
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary:
Miss Geraldine Cooke.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic. & 4674 Vic.

We have received £4 in War Loan Vouchers, and four more 5s. Vouchers would enable us to exchange them for a Bond. If any of our readers will assist in helping us to complete the amount we shall be very grateful.

Besides these small sums, several larger amounts of War Loan Scrip have been given as donations to our funds by persons desirous of investing in the War Loan and helping our funds at the same time. In these days it is not easy to have much surplus income, but Suffragists still contrive to give generously to the work of the National Union. They know that though our work is now chiefly directed to present needs, a great deal of it will be of lasting benefit to women.

The Shop.

Members of National Union Societies who are anywhere in the neighbourhood of Westminster are warmly invited to call at the Shop (50, Parliament Street). There they can see some of the latest books on the war; they can obtain pamphlets on the National Economy Campaign, which is so much in everyone's mind just now; they can hear the latest news of our Hospitals in France and Serbia; they can obtain tea at the cost of 6d., and they can rest without incurring any expense at all. Members of Country Societies spending the day in town will find it a convenient resting-place, and members of the London Society are urged to come in on their way to and from their own office. The Shop is open from 10 to 6, and from 10 to 1 on Saturdays.

A voluntary messenger is needed at the Shop for about a week. Her duties would be to take orders to publishers and bring back the books, and to help in washing up tea things, dusting, and other odd jobs. She would be required to come in the morning about 10.30, but not necessarily to stay all day.

Will any young and energetic member who can give her services for this week call at the Shop as soon as possible?

ERRATA.

Through a typist's error, the recommendation of "the Majority Report of the Royal Civil Service Commission, that the higher posts of the Civil Service be permanently opened to women," was wrongly attributed last week to the Minority Report on p. 303.

In the list of lecturers lately sent out, Mrs. McKillop's address is given inaccurately. It should be: Oakthorpe, Ivy Lane, Didsbury, Manchester. Also, for Rural Housing Co., in the same list, read Rural Housing Association.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 21st, 1914 ...	1,739	13	7
Received from September 18th to September 25th:—			
Subscriptions.			
Mrs. F. J. Urwick	2	2	0
Miss Clara E. Collet	1	0	0
Affiliation Fee.			
St. Albans W.S.S....		7	6
	£1,743	3	1

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged...	7,236	15	2
Miss P Lawrence...	1	0	0
Miss I. M. Evans		2	6
Miss E. F. Boulton	1	0	0
Miss J. W. Scott	5	0	0
Miss C. R. Forster		5	0
Women and Children of Motueka and District... ...	3	0	0
Received for Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund:—			
Anonymous	25	0	0
Anonymous	3	8	0
	£7,275	10	8

CANTEEN WORK.

The new hostel for women-workers at the Aldershot Canteens, organised by the London Society for Women's Suffrage, will open on October 5th. There is a serious lack of linen of all kinds (sheets, pillow-cases, towels, dusters, &c.), cutlery, and a few small beds for extra workers. If any members and friends will be kind enough to send gifts of these articles (either new or old) to Miss Gawthra, at Cooleen, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, we shall be most grateful.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

A Conference of Women Members of Sanitary Authorities will be held on Friday, October 8th, in the Council Chambers of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, under the auspices of the Women's Local Government Society and the Public Service Committee of the N.U.W.W.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

South Kensington.

At the Hostel for Belgians, 1, Argyll Road, Kensington, opened by this Society nearly a year ago, a working party meets on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3.0 to 6.30 under the supervision of Miss Lake (Hon. Treasurer), who gives her valuable assistance in cutting out and preparing the work for the Belgian women, who are busily employed in making garments for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital Units abroad, and it is owing to Miss Lake's unremitting attention that these working parties have become a success, providing, as they do, not only an interest to the inmates of the Hostel, but also a social centre, where friends who wish to help are always sure of a warm welcome from Miss Lake and the able Directress of the Hostel, Mdlle. Peteghem. Recently a consignment of garments was despatched to the Serbian Unit, including 94 suits (shirts and pyjamas), 24 pillow-cases, and 43 rolled bandages. But as soon as the finished work is sent off more material has to be provided for the willing workers, and at the present moment the Committee is in need of funds to supply this, and contributions will be gratefully received, for it would indeed be a pity if this useful work should come to an end. It is a case of the old proverb: "Those who give quickly give twice," for the need is very urgent, and the quicker the garments are sent off the better. Therefore, we hope that the working parties may be kept going by timely contributions towards providing the material.

MABEL HOLLAND,
Vice-Chairman of Committee.

East Bristol.

We commenced our autumn work by inviting members and friends to an "Opening Tea" at the shop in East Bristol. The room was crowded, many new friends being introduced. Miss M. C. Tothill presided, and spoke of the programme of work for the coming winter. The subjects decided upon to be discussed are: first, a series of four lectures by Miss Tothill on "The Map of Europe"; to be followed later by addresses and discussion on "Food Prices," "Economic Housekeeping," "Education and Child Labour," "War Service for Women," and Miss Brodie, who is one of our Poor Law guardians, promised to speak on her experiences as a guardian. As many of our friends are wives of soldiers and sailors, a suggestion was made that the shop be opened one night each week as a recreation and reading-room; this idea was received with much interest, and final arrangements will be made at our meeting next Tuesday.

Training School for Women Police.

An interesting experiment in the education of women for public service is now being made in Bristol. A school has just been opened for the training of women patrols and women police in co-operation with the Central Patrol Committee of the N.U.W.W., and Miss Damer Dawson, of the Women Police Service in London. Already thirty women patrols have been working in Bristol during the last year, and their pioneer work has been most valuable, but one of the results of their experience is to bring home both to the patrols themselves and to their Committee the great need for properly-trained and permanent policewomen.

An effort has therefore been made, for the first time in the provinces, to bring this about. A training Committee has been formed, an office taken, and some candidates are already in training.

The course covers a period of four to eight weeks, according to the requirements and previous experience of the candidates, and includes instruction in civil and criminal law, study of the special Acts relating to women and children, procedure and rules of evidence in police-courts, instruction in collecting evidence and accurate reporting, drill, first aid, practical instruction in police duties, &c. The patrol course covers a shorter time, with a modified syllabus.

The Committee will be very glad to welcome fresh candidates. Particulars as to terms, &c., will be found in last week's advertising columns.

Kentish Federation.

A committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5th, at 2 p.m., at the Suffrage Shop, 50, Parliament Street, Westminster, where tea is obtainable.

RAMSGATE.—A pleasant social meeting was held at the Foresters' Hall, Ramsgate, on Saturday, September 18th, the *raison d'être* of it being to bring to the notice of members and friends, the admirable work undertaken by the Scottish Women's Hospital Units, and to invite a sixpenny collection for the funds. Tea was served at little tables, with dainty cakes, and the hall looked gay and attractive with flowers.

The Chair was taken by Mrs. Poole, one of the Vice-Presidents, and the speakers were the Mayoress of Ramsgate and Mr. J. Soans all of whom made an earnest appeal for support of the hospitals.

Subsequently an interesting address was given by Miss Case, of the Salvation Army, who described her recent experiences in Russia and Finland, and gave her impressions of the status and work of the women of both countries.

Mrs. Sale proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, and regretted that the President of the Branch, Mrs. Oakley-Coles, was unable to be present owing to ill-health. Mr. G. G. Cook, ex-Mayor and Poor Law Guardian, seconded, and paid a handsome tribute to the work done by women as Guardians and on Town Councils.

Among those present were Ramsgate's Woman Councillor, Miss Stancomb-Wills, besides Miss Channing-Pearce, Mrs. Neville-Wyatt, Mrs. Player, Mrs. Soans, Miss Stokes, Mrs. Bath, Mrs. Sale, and other prominent supporters of the Suffrage Cause in Ramsgate.

The collection amounted to nearly £5.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Paddington—8, Hatherley Grove, Westbourne Grove (by kind permission of Messrs. William Owen, Ltd.)—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Blackheath Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—Tuesday, 2 to 6, at 8, Shooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk.

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 1, Argyll Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday and Friday, 3 to 6.30 p.m.

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street, every Tuesday afternoon, from 2.30 p.m.

OCTOBER 1.

Birmingham—The University—Public Meeting of the Suffrage Society and W.E.A. Mr. A. D. Steel-Maitland, M.P., on "The War and the Economic Situation." Chair, Mrs. Osler 8.0

Strathaven—Public Hall—Speaker, Miss Emily M. C. Fogo on "The N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service." Chair, His Grace the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon 8.0

OCTOBER 2.

Manchester—Minor Hall, Y.M.C.A., Peter Street—Public Meeting. Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Burke, the Rev. A. E. Cornibeer 4.0

Richmond—16, Denbigh Gardens (by kind permission of Mrs. Gates)—Mrs. Rackham on "War and the Women's Movement." Admission free by ticket only, to be obtained beforehand from Miss Henderson, "Belsize," Queen's Road, Richmond 8.30

OCTOBER 5.

Birkenhead—Randle Hall, Tranmere—Women's Guild Meeting. Speaker, Miss Wyse 3.0

Wednesbury—Annual Meeting of Society. Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.0

Worcester—Trinity Hall—The Rev. H. I. Roberts on "The Disparity Between Individual and National Ethics" 8.15

OCTOBER 6.

Stevenage—Public Hall—Concert in aid of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals 8.0

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party. Study Circle—Leader, Miss B. M. Barker 3 and 5.30

OCTOBER 8.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home." Miss Alice Low on "War Work and Women" 4.30

OCTOBER 9.

Stevenage—Small Hall—Rummage Sale for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals 2.30

RUSSIAN MUSIC IN LONDON.

In aid of our blinded Soldiers and Sailors in the Hostel of St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, the first of a series of six concert recitals of Russian, Finnish, and Polish music will be given on Tuesday, October 12th, at 3.15, at the Æolian Hall, under the gracious patronage of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra. New works will be performed for the first time in England by Mdme. Alys Bateman, Mr. Percival Garratt, Mr. S. Lasserson, and Mr. E. Parlonitz. Tickets, numbered and reserved, 10s., 5s., 2s. 6d.; admission 1s., may be obtained at the Æolian Hall and all the usual agents.

INFANT CARE.

A course of lectures on Infant Care for teachers, voluntary health workers, mothers, &c., is being held every Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the London Day Training College, Southampton Row, W.C. Arrangements have also been made for students to be present at practical demonstrations, and to attend certain Infant Welfare Centres. Special facilities are being granted to teachers by the L.C.C. Tickets and further particulars can be obtained from Miss Halford, Secretary, National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.

WAR-TIME INTERCESSION.

A series of War-Time Intercession Services has been arranged to take place on Saturday afternoons at 3 o'clock, at each of which there will be a special address. The first of the series will be held on October 9th, at 3 p.m., at Southwark Cathedral.

The other Services will take place monthly at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on Saturday afternoons, at 3 o'clock. The Bishop of London will preach on November 6th, Dr. Scott Holland on December 18th, the Bishop of Lichfield on January 8th, the Bishop of Stepney on February 5th, and the Bishop of Willesden on March 4th. The Services will be open to all.

THE NATIONAL UNION.

ACTIVE SERVICE FUND.

I enclose Cheque / Postal order for £ : s. d. for relief and educational work organised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in connection with the war.

*Name*_____
(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

*Address*_____

Cheques to be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Auerbach, crossed London County and Westminster Bank, and sent to the N.U.W.S.S., Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

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PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE WAR.

A SERIES of LECTURES at the KENSINGTON TOWN HALL, on TUESDAY AFTERNOONS and EVENINGS, has been arranged by the S. Kensington Branch of the London Society for Women's Suffrage.

Oct. 19th, 8.30 p.m.—M. Miyatovitch (former Minister for Serbia at the Court of St. James) on "The War and the Balkans." Chairman, The Lady Denman. Collection for the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Nov. 2nd, 8.30 p.m.—Mr. Lowes Dickinson, M.A., on "Nationality as a Cause of War." Chairman, Her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough. Collection for the London School of Medicine for Women.

Nov. 9th, 3 p.m.—Professor E. J. Urwick, M.A., on "War and Economy."

Nov. 16th, 8.30 p.m.—M. Alexis Aladin (ex-Member of the Duma, representing the Central Committee of National Patriotic Associations) on "Anglo-Russian Relations."

Nov. 23rd, 3 p.m.—Dr. Ludwik Ehrlich (University of Lvów, Poland) on "Modern Poland."

Nov. 30th, 8.30 p.m.—Sir Edwin Pears, LL.B., on "Constantinople Past and Present."

Further information and Tickets 2s. and 1s. each, or 10s. 6d. for series, at the Door, or from the Hon. Secretary, MRS. FYFFE, 79, Victoria-road, Kensington.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-st., Piccadilly.—Wed., Oct. 6th, 8 p.m., Lecture by Mr. W. L. George, "The Decay of the Modern Novel."

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ARTISTIC hand-embroidered dresses, coats, and jibbahs. Special prices during war time. Designs, &c., on application.—Maud Barham (Late 186, Regent-st.), 33-34, Haymarket, S.W. Facing Piccadilly Tube Station.

EDINA, 18, Great Portland-st., W.—Paris hats, blouses, furs, &c. Terms moderate. Hat remodelling a speciality.

LADY earnestly solicits orders for children's knitted woollen jerseys; any colour, size, style; from 4s.; best wool used; selection sent.—Box 5,346, COMMON CAUSE Office.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES. Latest styles from 3 gns. to measure. Best workmanship and smart cut guaranteed.—H. Nellissen, 14, Great Titchfield-st., Oxford-circus, W. Patterns sent on application.

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DEVON APPLES.—Carriage paid; choice dessert and large cooking, 6 lb. 1s. 9d.; 12 lb. 3s.—Miss Davy, Bere Ferrers, S. Devon.

SMALL COOKING APPLES, 3s. for 24 lbs.; larger and eating ones, 4s.; carriage paid.—Clark, Massett's Cottage, Horley.

VERY specially fine Pears for dessert or bottling; 12 lb. 3s.; carriage paid within a hundred miles.—Mrs. Powell, Harmer Green, Welwyn Herts.

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ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT.—MESSRS. BROWNING, Dental Manufacturers, 63, Oxford-st., London, THE ORIGINAL FIRM who do not advertise misleading prices. Full value by return or offer made. Call or post. Est. 100 years.

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DAMASK TABLE CLOTHS, snow-white Irish Linen, handsome floral designs, slightly imperfect, size 2 by 2 yards, 6s. 10d. Genuine offer. Usually 9s. 6d. Catalogue free. Send postcard.—HUTTON'S, 159, Larne, Ireland.

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CHELSEA.—Share of small Furnished Flat offered by lady artist; situation high and open.—H., 130, Elm Park-mansions, Chelsea.

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GOATHLAND.—Winter quarters.—To Let, well-built, warm house; old oak furniture; bath; sanitary certificate; low rent.—Mrs. Dott, Orchard.

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